

# The Brooklyn Paper

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## LIBRARY SALE A GO

Council votes to sell Heights branch and replace with high-rise

By Lauren Gill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Book it in.

Council members voted on Wednesday to approve the controversial sale and redevelopment of the Brooklyn Heights library.

Members voted 45-1, with three abstentions, to sell the city-owned land to developer Hudson Companies, which plans to bulldoze the facility and build a 36-story luxury residential tower on top with a new library at the bottom.

The library system claims the \$52-million sale is necessary to help it pay to fix dilapidated buildings around the borough, but the proposal has long divided the neighborhood — Community Board 2 voted in favor, while Borough President Adams disapproved — with critics objecting to the sale of a public asset as well as the specifics of the new building itself.

The Council’s land-use committee approved the sale and redevelopment last Thursday after local member Steve Levin (D–Boerum Hill) cut a last-minute deal with the book-borrowing institution, developer Hudson Companies, and the city that included a larger replacement library and a second mini-library in Dumbo.

The pol said these and other concessions he secured in last-minute negotiations were enough to win his approval.

“I believe ultimately this is an improvement and it is something we should be proud of,” said Levin, who spent hours locked in closed-door negotiations with the various stakeholders



A developer wants to build a wedge-shaped 36-story tower on the Brooklyn Heights Library.

before the committee vote.

Mayor DeBlasio still has to approve the sale, but Hizzoner says it has his enthusiastic support.

Levin’s deal addresses many, but not all, of the detractors’ gripes with the new building.

- Many faulted the original scheme for replacing the current 32,000 square-foot

STRINGER QUESTIONS  
LIBRARY SALE  
SEE PAGE 12

will be turned into science and technology labs for use by the local school district — which stretches from the waterfront to Bedford-Stuyvesant. The education department will still have to fit-out and fund the facility.

- The below-market housing associated with the residential building will still be located off-site in Clinton Hill — a plan that angered many locals, who say it will unfairly segregate the rich and poor — but will now go to people with lower incomes than previously planned. A household income of around \$97,125 for a family of three will now be the highest wage bracket eligible, versus \$128,205 previously.
- The branch’s business library will still be moved to the Central branch in Prospect Heights, but the new Brooklyn Heights library will now have a so-called “business services center” that includes work spaces and meeting rooms.
- Some — including the comptroller’s office and Public Advocate Letitia James — have questioned whether the city is selling the desirable Brooklyn Heights land for less than it is worth. The price tag hasn’t gone up, but the developer will now give the library system 25 percent of any profits it makes on condo sales if the rate of return is

See **LIBRARY** on page 12

## Dump on Trump

Williamsburg comedy club offering free entry to laugh-loving Muslims

By Allegra Hobbs  
The Brooklyn Paper

A Williamsburg comedy club is offering free entry to Muslims — a deal it has dubbed the “Donald Trump Special.”

The Experiment Comedy Gallery’s head funny-man says he hopes the middle-finger to the presidential candidate’s platform of banning practitioners of Islam from entering the country will help fellow followers of the faith find humor during a dark time.

“It’s gonna take years until the Muslim Mel Brooks writes our version of ‘The Producers’ to take on our Hitler,” said club owner Mo Fathelbab. “So in the meantime we’re going to create an atmosphere where we’re going to take it on through humor.”

The club will only give gratis entry



to those who can prove they are devout by facing the holy city of Mecca and reciting the opening of the Qur’an — a hard ask for many modern-day American Muslims, Fathelbab said, including himself.

“We’re just as Muslim as Shaquille O’Neill and Ice Cube,” he said.



Experiment Comedy Gallery manager Mo Fathelbab, right, promises free admission to shows for anyone who can prove they are Muslim — like comedian Atheer Yacoub, left. But that might not be enough to make up for Donald Trump’s continued popularity.

The admission policy is mostly for laughs, but apparently better thought-through than the idea it is lampooning — the Republican frontrunner plans to screen people entering the United States simply by asking, “Are you Muslim?”

And because Trump’s divisive plan would remain in effect for the foreseeable future, so too will the comedy special that bears his name.

“It’s going to be as vague as Donald Trump is going to make it,” said Fathelbab.

The Experiment is also hosted a stand-up show called “Hilarious Muslims” on Monday, featuring local Muslim comedians.

The Experiment Comedy Gallery [20 Broadway between Dunham Place and Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, (626) 643-4850, [www.theexcomedy.ticketfly.com](http://www.theexcomedy.ticketfly.com)].

## Where the streets have many names

Who else has a street in Community Board 2?

- Harry Rosen Way.** Junior’s Restaurant founder.
- Khay Cochran Place, Leonard and Harriet Walit Way.** Locals killed in a gas explosion.
- Harriet Ross Tubman Avenue.** Famed abolitionist.
- Mary Pinkett Avenue.** First black Councilwoman.
- Rev. Timothy White Way.** Founder of South Brooklyn’s first black church.
- S. Anesta Samuel Avenue.** Businesswoman.
- The Honorable Nicholas Coffinas Way.** State

Supreme Court justice.

- Shawn Powell Place.** Firefighter killed on 9-11.
- Rev. Manuel T. Sanchez Corner.** Founding pastor of Spanish Pentecostal Church.
- Willie McDonald Way.** Public housing advocate.
- Alain Schabarger Way.** Police officer killed in the line of duty.
- Reverend Walter C. Murphy Way.** Religious leader.
- Jon Kest Way.** Founder of the Working Families Party.
- Brianna Ojeda Way.** Young girl who died after police didn’t perform CPR.

## A street-sign fight!

Co-naming for former pol staffer sparks spat

By Lauren Gill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Downtown-area thoroughfares may start to look thoroughly unfair after a neighborhood panel okayed co-naming a street for a former Council staffer who died at age 22, while rejecting a proposal to grant the same courtesy to a long-serving local businessman, says Borough President Adams.

“An accomplished 20-something has been recognized as worthy of a street co-naming, while an accomplished 70-something has been denied that honor,” said the Beep. “Something does not feel right about that.”

Community Board 2 last Wednesday voted 21-3 with 15 abstentions to approve naming a block of Bond Street in Boerum



Community Board 2 recently recommended co-naming a block of Bond Street for former Council staffer Hope Reichbach, who grew up nearby.

Hill for Hope Reichbach — a former rising political star and aide to Councilman Steve Levin (D–Boerum Hill) who died of a drug overdose in 2011.

In October, however, the board voted against naming a block of

See **STREETS** on page 6



## Tour de Force

Brooklyn’s rich Star Wars history

By A 900-Year-Old Reporter  
The Brooklyn Paper

The highly anticipated seventh installment in the Star Wars space opera hits cinemas Dec. 16, and there is no better place to see it than in Brooklyn — a borough so in love with Star Wars that we carry lightsabers in bars, dress our sporting stars as Jedi, and watch the films in theaters typically dedicated to Shakespeare.

Let us look back at some of Brooklyn’s most notable Star Wars-related events over the years:

**10.** Brooklyn PaperRadio — the new podcast that is taking New York media by storm — scored an exclusive interview with R2D2 this week. Find it at [BrooklynPaper.com/radio](http://BrooklynPaper.com/radio).

ers did not give him one, but the team did make bobblehead toys of Lopez dressed as a Jedi, which it gave away at Monday’s game.



**5.** A few years ago, in a neighborhood not-so-far away, Brooklyn played host to an epic space saga of Lucasian proportions. In 2011, some phantom menace stole Bedford-Stuyvesant engineer Flynn Michael’s custom lightsaber, after the Jedi Master took his eye off the weapon in a local bar. Michael — who founded a lightsaber fighting group — had all but given up recovering the blade when two years later, a mysterious stranger who identified only as “SithBandit” returned it to him.

**4.** Weirdo Gowanus ice creamery Ample Hills scored a huge scoop this year when Disney agreed to let it create several Star Wars-themed flavors — the Light Side, a marshmallow ice cream studded with Krispies, and the Dark Side, a dark chocolate ice cream with brownie bits and white-chocolate pearls. The store’s co-owner Brian Smith is himself a former science-fiction screenwriter — he co-wrote the 2005 made-for-television movie “Alien Express” starring Lou Diamond Phillips.

**3.** Another Brooklynite reaping the spoils of the latest film is local children’s author Adam Gidwitz. The Disney franchising empire tapped the former Saint Ann’s School teacher to create his own retelling of “The Empire Strikes Back” for youngsters, which he interpreted as a how-to Jedi manual dubbed “So You Want to Be a Jedi?”

**2.** Mill Basin native Jimmy Kimmel recorded a week of shows at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in October — the same time the final “Force Awakens” trailer hit. To celebrate, he recruited local staffers to redub the teaser with thick Brooklyn accents. May dah force be widge you!

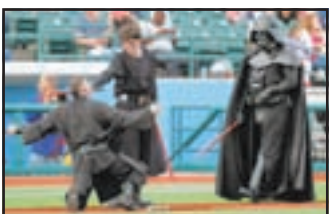
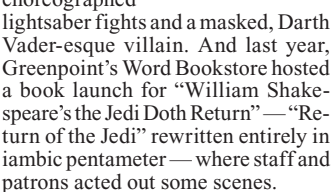
**1.** And finally, you can catch “The Force Awakens” at movie houses across the borough! And for our Imperial credits, you can’t beat the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which is projecting the film onto a 35-by-19-foot screen in its main performance space.

“Star Wars: The Force Awakens” at the BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)]. Various dates and times. \$18.



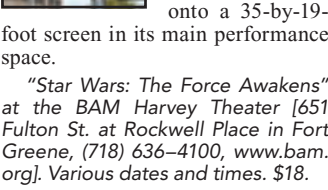
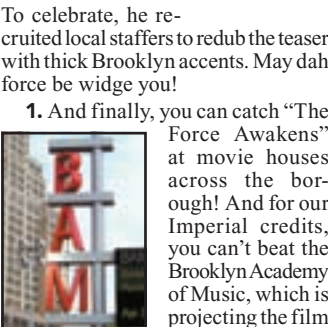
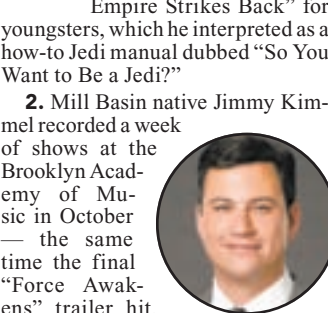
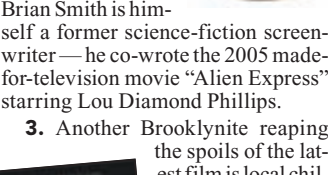
**9.** The Brooklyn Museum ruffled art-world feathers in 2002 when it hosted a touring exhibition of Star Wars memorabilia. The museum defended the show as a way to bring the masses into the cultural institution, but critics — including this very paper! — nevertheless slammed the show.

**8.** Han shoteth first! The borough has played host to several Shakespeare-Star Wars mash-ups over the years. In 2011, the theater group A Festival of Fools staged an original play in Williamsburg called “The Impostor Striketh Back” featuring choreographed lightsaber fights and a masked, Darth Vader-esque villain. And last year, Greenpoint’s Word Bookstore hosted a book launch for “William Shakespeare’s the Jedi Doth Return” — “Return of the Jedi” rewritten entirely in iambic pentameter — where staff and patrons acted out some scenes.



**7.** If there is only one good thing you can say about “Attack of the Clones” — and there is — it is that it gave Brooklyn’s beloved baseball team the Cyclones — also known as the Clones — a flimsy excuse to host a Star Wars-themed game. An annual tradition since 2013, the games typically involve team mascot Sandy the Seagull dressing as a Jedi, Darth Vader throwing the first pitch, and costumed characters hamming it up on the field between innings.

**6.** In an even more tenuous sports-team-Star Wars tie-in, Nets star and self-described “huge Star Wars fan” Brook Lopez once begged George Lucas and J.J. Abrams to give him a walk-on role as a Wookiee via a New York Post article. The filmmaker







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# Theater lobby

## Activists still fighting to save Slave

**By Allegra Hobbs**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

It looks like curtains for this theater, but the drama isn’t over yet.

The new owner of Bedford-Stuyvesant’s Slave Theater plans to demolish the historic building, but a father-son duo who have long claimed to be the property’s rightful proprietors say they will fight to keep it standing until the wrecking ball swings.

Clarence Hardy—a friend of the Slave’s former owner, the late judge John Phillips—staged a dramatic protest from the theater’s second-

floor marquee last Friday, days after developer Jacob Hamway filed an application to demolish the Fulton Street building on Dec. 2.

And his son says they’ll be back this Saturday to rally again.

“As Mr. Phillips said, we never quit a fight or die a loser,” said Omar Hardy, whose 81-year-old dad’s protest led police to close off Fulton Street as he stood atop the theater.

Clarence Hardy worked with Phillips after the former Brooklyn Civil Court judge—known as the “kung fu judge”—bought the build-

ing once known as the Regal Theater in 1984 and turned it into a hub for civil rights activity where Al Sharpton regularly held court.

The theater fell into disrepair after then-District Attorney Charles Hynes had Hardy declared “mentally incompetent” and confined to a nursing home, and when Phillips died in 2008—leaving no will—the property was passed on to his nephew Samuel Boykin.

The Hardeys unsuccessfully challenged Boykin’s right to the theater in court, claiming they bought the building from Phillips prior



Community News Group / Allegra Hobbs

The Slave Theater is slated for demolition, but a father and son who say they are the rightful owners plan to fight until the end.

to his death and that Boykin’s deed is fraudulent, but continued living—squatting,

Boykin says—in the dilapidated theater for several years.

Boykin claims he wanted to sell the building to a community group, but the Hardeys’ refusal to leave thwarted his efforts, so he instead sold to developer Yossi Ariel in 2013—who in turn sold it

schools DeBlasio has closed since taking office. Former Mayor Bloomberg axed more than 150, leading both the principals and teachers unions to file multiple lawsuits against that administration, claiming it was relying too heavily on closures to deal with shoddy schools.

But the unions say it is the right thing for the city to do in this case, because the schools have too many problems to save.

“Unfortunately, each of the schools... present unique challenges which make closure the best option for Chancellor Carmen Farina to exercise at this time,” said Ernest Logan, president of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators.

The city claims it will give each student at the closing schools individual support in finding a new one, and will work with staff members to get them new positions elsewhere.

The school closures aren’t a done deal yet. The city’s Panel for Educational Policy—a panel of education reps appointed by the borough presidents and the mayor—still has to vote on them.

The education department will hold public hearings at each of the schools next February before the vote.

of violence.

Still, Peace Academy and Foundations Academy were part of a program DeBlasio launched last year to pump \$150 million into the city’s 94 lowest-ranked schools in order to help them turn them around. The schools would get up to three years to meet specific targets before the city swung the axe, he said at the time.

“We will move heaven and earth to help them succeed,” said DeBlasio in November last year, according to Chalk Beat.

But that plan came under increasing fire for being too soft—allowing the schools three years to fix what critics said others could in one—and state education officials turned up the pressure on the city to just shut the worst offenders.

DeBlasio had changed his tune by February of this year, stating that he would not hesitate to close troubled schools sooner if they fail to make consistent progress.

These are the first public



**Schools in crisis!**

All three have fewer than 100 students and are struggling academically—none of the Urban Environment students passed the state’s English test last year, while only two percent of Peace Academy students met the state’s standards on the exam. Foundations Academy has had some of the lowest graduation rates in the city over the past two years.

And the state named both of the middle schools on its “persistently dangerous” list this year—based on reports

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# Ogre strikes woman and tries to steal headphones

**84TH PRECINCT**  
*Brooklyn Heights–Dumbo–Boerum Hill–Downtown*  
A fiend struck a woman on the back of the head and tried to steal her headphones on Jay Street on Dec. 7. The victim told police she was at Willoughby Street at 8:10 pm when the rascal punched her in the back of the head and attempted to steal her pink Beats headphones.

She managed to pry away her property and chased the goon onto Adams Street, but he was too quick and disappeared, said police.  
**Traumatized**  
Two cretins zapped a woman in the face with a Taser on Jay Street on Dec. 8. The shocked victim said she was near Prospect Street when two guys surprised her from behind, one of them grabbing her putting the weapon to her right cheek as the other acted as a lookout, said police. The two goons fled before she could get help.

**Checked out**  
A sneak snatched a wallet from a woman’s pocket as she was waiting in line to check out at a Willoughby Street store on Dec. 8. The shopper put her wallet in her jacket pocket while she was standing in line to pay for her merchandise at the store near Lawrence Street at 5:30 pm, according to a report. She noticed a man standing next to her when she was looking at some goods, and when she moved to the side she noticed her wallet had disappeared, said police.

**Taxi takeover**  
A gaggle of goons robbed a taxi driver at gunpoint near State Street on Dec. 10. The cabbie said he picked up four guys near Atlantic Avenue at 8:55 pm and was heading towards Clinton Hill when one of the guys asked him, “What do you have in your pocket?” according to police. The victim said he told him he had \$150 and the scoun-

drel replied, “Give it up, don’t play with your life,” and another guy pulled out a gun from his backpack. The victim took off his seatbelt and tried to escape but the lout in the front seat grabbed his arm and took \$10 from his pocket, said police. The cabbie managed to escape and ran off.  
**88TH PRECINCT**  
*Fort Greene–Clinton Hill*  
**Thumb gunned**  
A nogoodnik shot a guy in a robbery gong wrong on Fulton Street on Dec. 11. The victim said he was exiting the train station near Washington Avenue at 10:30 pm when a man approached him and tried to take his money. The miscreant pulled out a gun, a struggle ensued, and he fired a shot, breaking the victim’s left thumb.  
**Overnight job**  
A heister broke into a Lafayette Avenue eatery and stole money from the cash register overnight between Dec. 9 and 10. The victim told police his partner left the closed restaurant near Fulton Street at around 7:30 pm on Dec. 9. When a worker arrived at 4 am on Dec. 10, he found the back door had been opened and the lock had been broken. Police say \$300 was missing from the register and the automated teller machine had been plundered.  
**Bus bag**  
A thief stole cash from a woman’s backpack on a bus on Fulton Street on Dec. 3. The victim told police she withdrew money from an automated teller machine and boarded a Downtown-bound B25 bus near Nostrand Avenue at 9 am. When she got off the bus, she discovered her backpack had been opened and \$680 was missing, said police.  
**Dropped call**  
A sneak grabbed a phone from a woman near the park on Willoughby Avenue on Dec. 13. The woman told police

she was watching her son’s game in Washington Hall Park by Washington Park at noon when she took out her phone to call her husband. Before she could make the call, a nogoodnik ran past her, snatched the phone from her hand, and fled.  
— Lauren Gill  
**76TH PRECINCT**  
*Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook*  
**Big haul**  
Three scoundrels robbed a 10-year-old kid on Henry Street on Dec. 8, police said. The trio approached him at the corner of Fourth Place, outside a school, around 4:30 pm. One flashed some sort of weapon that the victim told cops looked like a gun and demanded cash. Naturally, their young victim had little to offer, since he’s legally barred from working in New York State. The trio walked away with one dollar each, according to police.  
**Window smash**  
Some brute smashed the window of a car parked on Amity Street to get to a navigation system on Dec. 15, police said. The owner of the car said she parked her vehicle between Hicks and Henry streets overnight, and when she came out to move it just after 6 am she found her passenger-side window was smashed and the pathfinder taken. The thief also nabbed some car chargers she had, according to police.  
**’Tis the season**  
A package thief struck in a Columbia Street apartment building lobby on Dec. 14, according to police. The punk grabbed the package from the lobby between Kane and Degraw streets around 1 pm, cops reported. Police did not say what sort of security measures the building had in place, or how the thief was able to get access to the lobby. The package contained sheets from L.L. Bean, ac-

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

cording to a report.  
**Buddy system**  
Police cuffed two suspects who they say robbed a cab driver at knife point on Clinton Street on Dec. 13. One of the men flagged down the driver and hopped in the back seat of the taxi at President Street around 1:20 am, police said. Less than a block down the road he told the cabbie to stop and pick up his buddy, who hopped in the front seat and grabbed the cabbie’s phone while the back seat rider held a knife to his neck, police allege. They hightailed on foot, but police grabbed them less than 20 minutes later a few blocks away at the corner of Columbia and Carroll streets, according to officials.  
— Dennis Lynch  
**78TH PRECINCT**  
*Park Slope*  
**Teen torture**  
Two cold-blooded brutes robbed an 11-year-old boy inside his friend’s Sterling Place apartment building on Dec. 2, before choking his cellphone password out of him. The victim told police he was between Sixth and Seventh avenues at 6:20 pm when the pair of snakes slithered up. “Hey, kid, give me the phone,” one of them hissed. The boy made for his friend’s house, but the reptiles followed him inside, where one of them snatched his phone as the other kept a lookout, cops said. Finding the device was pass locked, the crook wrapped his arms around the poor kid’s neck, and wrung it until the boy coughed up the password, according to police reports.  
**Spending spree**  
A weasel took a man’s wallet he accidentally left in the back of a dollar van on Atlan-

tic Avenue on Dec. 5 — and went on a spending spree. The victim told police he was at a big-franchise grill spot near Fort Greene Place at 10 pm when he noticed his wallet was missing, and the last he remembered seeing it was in the dollar van he took to the restaurant. Later he discovered he’d unwittingly patronized somebody’s spending habits via three unauthorized debit transactions totaling \$190, cops said.  
**Motor head**  
A thief cleaned out a fenced-in construction site at a Nevins Street housing complex sometime between Dec. 4 and 6. Reps for the construction company told police that a gate leading into the site between Baltic and Wyckoff streets was secured at 4:30 pm, but that workers discovered a limp chain and a busted padlock two days later. The construction workers found the door to their trailer had been busted open and a wealth of work equipment stolen, cops said. The burglar’s spoils included scaffold motors, and jackhammers, according to police.  
**No dyeing**  
A hooded fiend demanded cash from a teller at a Seventh Avenue bank on Dec. 4, earning himself a \$1,198 in stolen dough. The teller told police he was at his post in the bank between Union and President streets at 5:30 pm when the crook — wearing a gray-blue jacket and with his hood drawn tight over his face, so that “only his eyes were visible” — approached. “Give me all the money,” the bandit growled, before passing the teller a note that read, “no dye pack.” The fellow duly complied,

and forked over a wad of cash, cops said. Not satisfied, the bossy thief demanded more, but the teller refused and the scalawag ultimately fled with what he had, according to police.  
**Down loaded**  
A thief looted a 70-year-old woman’s Fifth Avenue apartment on Nov. 30, taking more than a grand in electronics. The victim told police that she left her home between Union and President streets at noon, only to return about three hours later to find her front door ajar, and that her phone, tablet, laptop, and watch were missing.  
— Colin Mixson  
**68TH PRECINCT**  
*Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights*  
**Battery-powered**  
Two shoplifters stole more than \$1,200 worth of goods from a drugstore on Third Avenue on Dec. 6, according to police. The two feigned a shopping trip to the store at 93rd Street just before 10 pm. They grabbed \$660 worth of allergy medicine, \$200 in teeth whitening strips, and \$330 in Duracell batteries, according to a police report. The two skipped the line at the register and walked right out with their take, never to sneeze, brush their teeth, or deal with a dead television remote ever again.  
— Dennis Lynch  
**94TH PRECINCT**  
*Greenpoint–Northside*  
**Showdown**  
A knave robbed a guy at knife point at the corner of Morgan and Meeker Avenues on the afternoon of Dec. 11. The victim was on his way home from work around noon when the miscreant came up behind him and pulled a switchblade, demanding money, cops said. The victim forked over the cash he had on him and the baddie ran down Meeker Avenue towards Kingsland Av-

enue, police said. The victim did not report the mugging until later that night because had to go home and take care of his grandmother, according to a police report.  
**Safe break**  
A dastardly duo broke into a Kent Avenue bar and ran off with thousands of dollars on Dec. 12. The manager told cops surveillance footage shows the two troublemakers climbing into the establishment near N. 11th Street through the window at around 3:30 am. The looters broke into an office safe and pulled out approximately \$3,500, police said. The perps tried to break into the automated teller machine and the register but were unsuccessful, according to a police report.  
**Bicycle bandit**  
A cycling delinquent pulled a gun on a guy on Kingsland Avenue and ran off with his cash and gadgets on Dec. 11. The victim was near Greenpoint Avenue at 4:40 pm when the low-life approached with a silver handgun and said, “I will shoot you in the leg if you don’t give me your money,” police said. When the victim told the gunslinger he only had \$2, the perp demanded his cellphone and iPad, cops said. The marauder grabbed the guy’s possessions and hopped on a green bicycle, then sped down Greenpoint Avenue toward Monitor Street, according to a police report.  
**Cellphone swipe**  
A rogue snatched a woman’s cellphone out of her hand at a Kingsland Avenue bus stop on Dec. 8. The woman told cops she was waiting for the bus near Maspeth Avenue at 6:55 pm when the rapscaillon came up and grabbed her phone out of her hand, then ran down Skillman Avenue toward Woodpoint Road. The victim did not report the incident until the next day because she did not know what to do, according to a police report.

**90TH PRECINCT**  
*Southside–Bushwick*  
**Batty**  
A bat-wielding maniac battered a guy at the corner of S. Fourth and Roebling streets on Dec. 11. The victim was walking through the Continental Army Plaza after work at 7 pm when the brute came up from behind him and struck him across the back and right leg with a bat, leaving him with swelling and a possible broken leg, police said. The victim told cops he had seen the bad guy hanging out at the park before and can identify him, according to a police report.  
**Femme fatale**  
A lady robbed a taxi driver after propositioning him on Flushing Avenue on the night of Dec. 12. The cabbie picked up the woman when she hailed his car at 10:30 pm, and after climbing in she asked for money and offered sex, according to a police report. When the driver refused, the perp stuck her arm through the partition and around his neck, demanding money, cops said. The driver gave her \$11 in cash, but when she asked for more money he refused, so she grabbed the keys from the car’s ignition before jumping out and fleeing to a housing development between Humboldt Street and Bushwick Avenue, police said.  
**Dirty word**  
A foul-mouthed punk beat a guy over the head with a metal bat on Hooper Street in broad daylight on Dec. 9. The victim was between Broadway and S. Fifth Street at 3:52 pm when the lout ran up behind him yelling the Spanish word for “c-----” and bashed him in the back of the head, cops said. The victim fell to the ground and suffered a head wound, but remained conscious and was taken to a nearby hospital, police said.  
— Allegra Hobbs



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# CREATURE TEACHER!

New preschool to have in-house rabbits, visiting goats

By Lauren Gill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about farm to table! A new Brooklyn Heights preschool will house a menagerie of live animals in its Willow Street classroom, where the critters will help teach their human classmates the three Rs, according to the school's founder.

"All of the academics are built into these animals," said the Green School founder Mari Linnman, who started the preschool on a 5-acre farm in the Hamptons in 2008 and opened another location in Manhattan a year later. "You can teach texture, shapes, and counting."

The Heights daycare will incorporate in-house bunnies, chinchillas, and birds into its curriculum, and Linnman will also bring in baby goats, lambs, and pigs from the Hamptons for special lessons.

It is too early to say if the brownstone outpost will also have chickens like its sister



Mari Linnman

Tots will get up close and personal with rabbits and other animals at the Green School's new location in Brooklyn Heights.

branches, but it is a possibility, Linnman said.

The bohemian preschool is based on the principles of

Montessori education, where kids generally learn independently with lots of hands-on activities. Linnman said she

chose the location, between Pineapple and Clark streets, because residents are already in-touch with its guiding conventions.

"It's great synergy with Brooklyn families," said Linnman, who grew up in Sweden, where she spent summers on her family's dairy farm. "Many people are very connected with living a sustainable lifestyle and it's also a very international crowd."

Along with getting their tiny little hands on animals, the rug rats will also bake every week using organic produce, learn foreign languages, and garden indoors using soil-free greenhouses under the free-spirited program, Linnman said.

The Green School is not set to open until September next year, but enrollment for one of its 12 spaces is already open to tots aged 2 to 4. Its two-day-a-week program will cost \$7,950 per year and a three-day-a-week program will cost \$11,900 per year.

# Helter shelter

Homeless refuge may not stay temporary as planned

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

Critics are giving no quarter on these quarters. A controversial emergency homeless shelter for parents and young kids that the city has opened across from a Kensington elementary school may end up becoming a more permanent fixture — and potentially a single mens' facility, officials revealed last Thursday, angering residents who vowed to oppose any changes.

"I will fight it to make sure it stays the way they said it will," said Jack Wallace, a Kensington property owner.

The city surprised neigh-

bors in late November when it announced the imminent arrival of the shelter, which it said would be open for six months and used to house homeless families with kids. But it will probably extend that contract to accommodate an ever growing population of homeless New Yorkers, officials told hundreds of locals at a packed public meeting about the refuge on Dec. 10

"In all likelihood, the contract will be expanded after six months," Doreen Howe, the Department of Homeless Services' associate commissioner for transitional services. "The need for homeless shelters isn't going away anytime soon."

Some residents were already steamed after homeless services was able to open the 65-bed emergency refuge — which is located across the road from PS 230 — with no community consultation and a scant week's notice for neighbors thanks to a provision that kicks in when the city's shelter system is close to a bursting point.

Now they're fuming that the loophole could have opened the door for what was billed as a temporary family refuge to become something else entirely.

"This is not temporary by any means, and that's why I'm fighting it," said Wallace.

Howe said the facility has not been created for homeless men, but could not guarantee that it won't be retrofitted for them at some point in the future, which did not calm critics' fears.

"I'm disappointed," said Wallace. "There's no guarantee they wouldn't make it a higher risk facility."

But many other Kensingtonians have rallied behind the new addition to the neighborhood — some have been collecting diapers, groceries, and Christmas gifts for residents — and supporters said they are happy to welcome the shelter, whatever it becomes, for the greater good.

"Can we not tolerate a little risk to help people in need?" said Josh Mason, a Kensington homeowner with children heading into PS 230.

In response to the outcry, Howe said the department will put together a community advisory board — likely comprising local community board members — to act as a go-between with the agency on residents on any issues arising from the shelter.

And if the shelter contract is renewed following its six month run, a hearing will take place at the Mayor's Office of Contracts — although no additional meetings within the Kensington community are planned, she said.

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Mo' money, mo' problems

Cadman Plaza residents: New tower would kill views, home value

By Lauren Gill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Hell no, they won't grow!  
A developer is dangling a large sum of cash in front of a Brooklyn Heights co-op building, offering to buy part of its land so it can erect a 40-story tower there. But some long-time inhabitants say a new high-rise would overwhelm the neighborhood and ultimately devalue their own property, and they will not be blinded by the Benjamins.  
"A lot of people are actually going to sustain financial losses," said Miriam Louis, who has lived in the 33-story, 370-unit building at 75 Henry St. for 26 years. "The wool's being pulled over our eyes."  
The unnamed developer has offered the co-op more than \$75 million for a slice of land on Pineapple Walk near Cadman Plaza West, according to a letter the building's board of directors recently sent residents. The owner of a studio unit stands to make at least \$120,000 under the deal, while those who own three-bedrooms would rake in a minimum of \$260,000, it claimed.  
But Louis says she is not sold — the new tower would block residents' views and ultimately depreciate her co-op shares, she said.  
The developer wants to raze the commercial buildings along Pineapple Walk, which include the Park Plaza Restaurant — a neighborhood staple of 33 years — a pet store, toy store, and grocery store, and replace them with the soaring new residential tower and new retail on the ground floor.  
The land is one of the few places in the highly desirable nabe that such high-rises are allowed, as most of Brooklyn Heights is a historic district with a height cap of around five stories.  
Residents of Cadman Towers, a 44-year-old 31-story co-op building nearby, are also worried the new tower will be a burden on the largely low-rise 'hood, and are urging their neighbors to turn down the windfall for the good of the community.  
"A 40-story tower will have a significant effect on the quality of life of Cadman Towers," said Toba Potosky, president of Cadman Towers' co-op board, at a meeting of residents from both buildings last Wednesday. "It will cast a huge shadow and will significantly increase the amount of people."  
But the owners of the threatened eatery, who still have 15 years left on their lease, say they're not fazed and are optimistic residents will opt to keep the status quo.  
"It's something that we're not even really concerned about at this point," said Nick Likourentzos, who is the manager of the Park Plaza Restaurant and son of owner Peter Likourentzos. "A lot of customers who live in the building have said they plan to oppose it."  
Residents at 75 Henry St. have until Jan. 15 to decide whether they want to go forward with the deal. If they vote "no," the offer will disappear. A "yes" vote means the co-op board will continue discussions with the developer.  
One co-op resident wasted no time casting her vote, claiming that she had immediately tossed the offer.  
"For the record I voted no," said Beth Eisgrau-Heller. "There is no amount of money I would accept that is worth ruining the neighborhood."  
Gumley-Haft Property Management, which runs 75 Henry St., declined to comment.

Photo by Louise Wateridge

Park Plaza Restaurant is on the chopping block after a developer made a big offer to buy the land. But some co-op owners say they won't sell.

Schoolhouse block!

Still no lesson plan for new Yards school

By Lauren Gill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Workers are breaking ground on construction of a new public school in the mega-development formerly known as Atlantic Yards — but the city still hasn't made up its mind about who will roam its halls.  
Local parents and pols have been pushing for months to stick a new middle school in the Pacific Park space — and want the city to make a commitment now so it can build with tween students in mind. But the education department says it is still considering going with an elementary school.  
"No decision has been made yet," said spokesman Harry Hartfield.  
Developer Greenland Forest City Partners this week unveiled broad designs for a 616-desk school, alongside the condo building at Dean Street and Sixth Avenue that it will be housed in.  
The new tower of learning will span seven stories of the 26-story high-rise — two of which will be underground — and will be connected by a central staircase, according to architect Jonathan Marvel. There will be an outdoor playground on the fourth floor of the building, along with a more grounded play-space on the first floor.  
Marvel said he couldn't give more details — he is also waiting on more instruction from the department.  
Education officials originally envisaged the school as a kindergarten-through-eighth-grade facility. But neighbors rallied together insisting the local school district — which also encompasses Brooklyn Heights, Downtown, Dumbo, Fort Greene, and Clinton Hill — is lacking in dedicated middle-school institutions and that this is the perfect opportunity to make one happen.  
They dream of a school that teaches software engineering and robotics, dual-language classes in both French and Spanish, and drama workshops with local theaters — which they hope will stop families moving out of the district so their kids can attend swanky junior highs in other areas.  
"People leave the district when their children reach middle school age to be able to send their children to schools in other districts," said Prospect Heights resident Gib Veconi, a member of civic group the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council.  
Bulldozers razed three townhouses on Dean Street last week in preparation for the construction. The building is slated to open in 2018.

Marvel Architects

The new school will be part of a 26-story residential tower.

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Learn to love and let go

Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

I sometimes rue my decision to give my kids freedom to roam.  
Most afternoons over the last number of years, I have tried to make sure I can be available for my boys after school, to make them popcorn and ask about their day. But increasingly, I encourage them not to be here with me at all, but rather to join things, hang out with friends, explore on their own. More and more I schedule things myself so that our old patterns aren't in effect, much as I have loved them.  
So it was that when the "I'm going to Shake Shack" text came in from my 12-year-old, I wrote back, "K, I'm at the hair salon" and was quite pleased. I love the idea that my middle-schooler can wander around with friends after school. It is a big reason I decided to raise my kids in New York City versus another kind of place, such as Arizona, where I grew up relying on cars.  
The text came in at 2:37 pm, and I didn't worry when I got home at around 3:30 and he still wasn't home. My older son came in and had some friends come over, and I didn't think much about my other son, the missing one, till a bit past 4:30, when it began to get dark. I put in a call and got no answer. At 4:47 I texted: "Hey there, where are you?" Nothing. The message showed it had been delivered but not read. I waited a few minutes to hear back, and then, well, I began to panic.  
Where was he? This had happened once before, and strangely enough I had just been talking about it at the hair salon because he was supposed to have met me there that day for a haircut and he just hadn't shown, and he hadn't answered his phone for hours. He turned up at the house where my older son had been headed before I stopped him and made him fret and worry with me. He'd gone with his brothers' friends, and his phone had died.  
"Don't lose Oscar again," was the parting line from the stylist.  
Excellent. Aces. Now it was coming up on 5 pm, pitch dark, and I was wondering to myself why I hadn't made any sort of plan with my child, like when he should call or be home. I wanted to be so blasé, so cool and chill, to let them navigate their own ship. Why exactly?  
I was supposed to go out to meet friends in the city, and so was my husband, straight from work. Now, instead, it was possible we could be spending the evening wringing our hands over our missing son.  
My husband agreed to look up on "Find my iPhone" where he was, and quickly surmised he was around Columbia Street, where we knew he had a friend. But still. Many calls went unanswered. I texted "Please call me," but resisted additional texts. There was concern and yet, still, I didn't want to seem like a psycho stalker given the very distinct reality that he was fine, playing basketball, and just didn't hear his phone.  
5:05, 5:10, 5:15. My husband tried to call friends who he thought might be able to find the number of the friend where he seemed to be, but to no avail. It was 5:20 and both our long-ago made plans for the evening were looking unlikely. How could we go out not knowing where our son was?  
At 5:17, my phone rang and I knew it was him.  
I should have been angry. My husband's idea was that he be punished for not checking in, and while I had agreed, I was just grateful that he was on the other end of the line with his cute voice, and I couldn't be mad. He was apologetic for worrying me, had left his phone in his bag before going to the park to play basketball. No harm, no foul. I should have asked him to touch base at some specific point, and to let me know his whereabouts, which I told him. But then, I wondered: Did I need the exact blow-by-blow? Why did I fly into a panic not being in constant touch? Wasn't freedom the intention, and didn't that include *not* having to report to your mom where you were every minute?  
This pre-teen, teenage stuff was complicated, and I realized that, ideally, for my comfort, my boys would be locked in my house at all times. But — and this was a *serious* but — I had to get used to not being in charge of where they were. I had to learn not to imagine the worst right away, and I had to trust that my boys were smart and could figure things out themselves, for all of our sakes.  
"Just call before it gets dark next time," I suggested gently, and was happy to hear agreement from the other end of the line. "I love you," I said, and I sure did.

STREETS...

Continued from page 1

Putnam Avenue in Clinton Hill for Cecil Collymore — the father of former Democratic District Leader Renee Collymore, and who supporters say was a respected local African-American leader and business owner who invested in a rough neighborhood in the late '70s when few others would.  
Several members of the board thought the bid to name the street for Collymore — which was backed by Adams, Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo (D-Fort Greene), Public Advocate Letitia James, and Assemblyman Walter Mosley (D-Fort Greene) — was "politically motivated" and said they'd never heard of the guy, according to a report by Kings County Politics.  
Adams, who was stationed in Clinton Hill during his time as a police officer, insists that Collymore, who passed away in 2003, was an "anchor" of the community and said that failing to recognize his and other old-timers' contributions would be an insult to the history of the increasingly gentrified nabe.  
"Displacing neighborhood pillars from our memory would be a serious mistake, salt in the wound that is the displacement of far too many from communities like Clinton Hill," he said.

Name recognition with the panel was not an issue for Reichbach, who ran for a Democratic district leader seat in 2010, was the daughter of late Brooklyn judge Gus Reichbach, and whose funeral was attended by hundreds of mourners including a who's who of Brooklyn pols and civil leaders. The directors of a neighborhood day care she had helped save from closure later renamed their facility after her.  
Community Board 2 adopted guidelines in 2007 to only approve co-namings for people who are "historically or culturally significant" and have been dead at least three years.  
It has in the past approved streets named for Mary Pinkett — the city's first black councilwoman — and Rev. Timothy White — who founded Boerum Hill's Bethel Baptist Church — in addition to Junior's Cheesecake founder Harry Rosen and several residents who died in a 2000 gas explosion.  
In light of the recent uproar, the panel reviewed its procedures at Tuesday night's transportation committee meeting.  
The board's vote is ultimately only advisory, however. The Council will have to approve the Reichbach co-naming for it to go ahead, and Cumbo could also choose to take the Collymore proposal to Council, despite the Community Board's rejection.  
Cumbo and Levin did not return requests for comment by press time.





# Let's tie one on!

## At Strong Rope Brewery

By Dennis Lynch  
The Brooklyn Paper

There is a new suds spot for those with a head for beer! Brooklyn beer enthusiasts have a new place to toss back locally-made brews and discuss their favorite beverage with the opening of Strong Rope Brewery in Gowanus this week. The brewery and taproom is a no-frills haven for those who love a quality pint, said the head brewer and owner. “This is a place focused on beer, on people coming and enjoying and talking about beer,” said Jason Sahler. “We’re really trying to push all the different things we can do with beer like tastings, pairings, talks, competitions... The idea is to have a super beer-centric place.” His new space keeps the focus on the beer, with just a 10-tap bar and simple tables and chairs for about 30 people. Eight of those 10 taps are reserved for Sahler’s own beers, which will not be available anywhere but his taproom. Sahler says that he has two reasons to keep the brews close to home: quality control, and giving

BEER!

Strong Rope Brewery  
(574A President St., near Fourth Avenue in Gowanus, [www.strongropebrewery.com](http://www.strongropebrewery.com)). Open Thu-Sun, noon-10 pm.

them a personal touch. “One, I like to present it how I want it presented, and if I send it out to other bars I can’t quite do that,” said Sahler. “And two, I just like to talk to people about it, so I can be here and say ‘This is what this beer is,’ and what we’re using in it and stuff.” The former advertising man started brewing for fun in 2003, but only considered going pro after he won the Judge’s Award at the 2011 Brooklyn Wort home-brew competition with his “J.J. Bolle-rack’s Big Brown Ale” — currently available in the tap room. Threes Brewing is just four blocks away and Other Half Brewing Company is located on the other side of the Gowanus, but Sahler says he is not worried about competition from his neighbors. “Everyone has a little bit of a different focus, I think we’re going to have a good balance with the other breweries in terms of what we’re providing,” he said. “It’s a great location — everyone in Gowanus has been super supportive.”



Ale and hearty: Owner and head brewer Jason Sahler holds up a pint of pale ale he brewed at Strong Rope Brewery, which opened this week in Gowanus.



Dog days of winter: Russ Marshalek’s French bulldog Mr. Frito Burrito is ready for the “Goths for Dogs” show happening in his honor.

# Heart of barkness

## ‘Goths for Dogs’ benefits canine rescuers

By Allegra Hobbs  
The Brooklyn Paper

Bring on the bow-wow-haus! A Greenpoint goth band will show their love for puppies by hosting “Goths for Dogs,” a witchy, black-clad benefit concert and dance party for two local dog rescue centers this weekend. The show, at Bedford-Stuyvesant club C’mon Everybody on Dec. 20, may seem like an unusual combination, said one of the rockers, be-

DOGS

“Goths for Dogs” at C’mon Everybody (325 Franklin Ave. between Clifton Place and Greene Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. [www.cmoneverybody.com](http://www.cmoneverybody.com)). Dec. 20 at 7 pm. \$10.

cause most people do not associate canines with Cure fans. “It’s funny, because you usually think of goths as being more cat people,” said Russ Marshalek,

half of the band A Place Both Wonderful and Strange. “And I can’t f----- stand cats.” But he does love his French bulldog, Mr. Frito Burrito, who fell sick as a dog and had to be rushed to the emergency room last Halloween. The experience left Marshalek with thousands of dollars in vet bills, but fellow goths and dog-lovers lent a helping hand. Rescue societies like the Short Noses Only Rescue Team — which focuses on blunt-faced doggies like pugs

and bulldogs — and the Greenpoint Vet Clinic put out the word and raked in donations for Frito Burrito’s health care. To return the favor, the “Goths for Dogs” event will benefit the centers that helped the bulldog in his time of need, as well as the Bare Paws Crested Rescue group. The show will also feature the first Brooklyn debut of the band’s touring show “Keys Open Doors: The Hidden Life of Laura Palmer,” — a synthy piece of auditory and visual fan-fiction about David Lynch’s television show “Twin Peaks.” The pooch party will also feature performances from goth acts Ghost Cop, Interval, and Knifesex, among others. Attendees can buy limited edition tee-shirts branded with Frito Burrito’s squishy face. Of course, the shirts only come in black.

### CULTURE

## Craft brunch

Waffling on what to get your friends for Christmas? A boozy brunch on Dec. 19 will offer crafty holiday shoppers a chance to eat, drink, and create two sets of drink coasters to give to their fellow drinkers. The “Waffles, Whiskey, and Workshop” event at the New York Distilling Company will provide all the ingredients in its name, along with a sense of accomplishment, says the event’s organizer.

“The goals of the workshops are to learn how to make something new and to use your hands,” said Miraya Berke. The brunch party will take place inside the Shanty, the distillery’s own bar, and will kick off with a complimentary cocktail made with whiskey distilled on-site. There will also be a brief tour of the distillery, plenty of waffles, and a cash bar for brunch favorites like mimosas and Bloody Marys. Berke added that children are welcome, “just no whiskey for them of course!” Though combining crafting and liquor may seem unwise, Berke assures that coaster-making is not particularly difficult, and the materials are safe to work with. “We’ll be making coasters out of corkboard and rope,” she said. “I thought coasters would be a fun project since it’s tied to drinking whiskey, plus we’ll be making two sets, one for you and one to give as a holiday gift.” All coaster materials will be provided on site, along with templates, hands-on instruction, and materials to turn the coaster sets into a classy gift. “We’ll also have a station with wrapping paper and card making to cross one gift off everyone’s list,” Berke said. Waffles, Whiskey, and Workshop at New York Distilling Company [405 Leonard St. in Williamsburg, [whiskeywafflesworkshops.com](http://whiskeywafflesworkshops.com)]. Dec. 19 at 11 am-2 pm. \$27. — Claire McCartney

### FESTIVAL

## Bell weather



They will jingle all the way! A roving music parade will ring bells and ding-dong its way through the streets of Dumbo, as part of the Make Music Winter festival on Dec. 21. The city-wide extravaganza offers a rare chance for folks to hear outdoor music during the chilliest time of the year, said one organizer. “When it gets to be winter you kind of don’t think about just stumbling across someone playing music somewhere,” said Dave Ruder, a coordinator for the annual event. “But the fact that you can just walk around and access this music event is really unique.” The day will feature five events across the borough, and the newest addition to this year’s Brooklyn program — the crowd-participation event “Bell by Bell” — will ring good cheer to listeners for blocks around. Organizers will distribute 70 color-coded bells, with each color representing a single note. Then, as the crowd moves from the Dumbo Archway to Jane’s Carousel in Brooklyn Bridge Park, conductors at the front of the parade will wave colored flags to signal the bell-ringers to give a chime. But there will be no traditional “Jingle Bells” or “Chorus of the Bells” — instead, a group of songwriters have crafted melodies that Ruder describes as “beautiful contemporary classical percussion music.” “We’ve been working hard on this for a couple of months,” said Ruder. “It’s really gratifying to be out there on the 21st and see everyone participating.” “Bell by Bell” starts at the Dumbo Archway (Anchorage Place between Pearl and Plymouth streets in Dumbo). Dec. 21 at 6 pm. Other events at various places and times on Dec. 21. See [www.makemusicny.org](http://www.makemusicny.org) for details. — Lauren Gill

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

December 18

Poppy Christmas

Go for unabashed pop-culture glee by putting on a Santa hat and belt out holiday tunes by the likes of Mariah Carey, Justin Bieber, and David Bowie, while their music videos play behind you. The Xmas Pop Sing-along party will also have free milk and cookies, a "worst holiday sweater" contest, and eggnog drink specials.

9:30 pm at Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com]. \$10.

SATURDAY

December 19

Yule be a wizard

In the books, Harry Potter spent his holidays alone at school, but here in Brooklyn, he throws a big party! Wizard-rock band Harry and the Potters hosts an all-ages Yule Ball concert today, with performances from arch-rivals Draco and the Malfoys, Internet sensation the Potter Puppet Pals, and more.

5 pm at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third Avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.the-bellhouse.com]. \$20.

9:30 pm at the Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth Streets in Dumbo, (212) 600-0047, www.gelseykirklamballet.org]. \$20-\$59

SUNDAY

December 20

Doin' nuttin'

Today is your final chance to catch the Gelsey Kirkland Ballet company's gorgeous production of the holiday classic "Nutcracker," which gives main character Marie a more active role in dancing with her nutcracker prince.

Noon and 5 pm at the Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth Streets in Dumbo, (212) 600-0047, www.gelseykirklamballet.org]. \$20-\$59

MONDAY

December 21

Irresistible force

The opening weekend crowds should have died down, so you can leave your spoiler-proof bunker and catch a screening of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" tonight. It is playing everywhere, but try for a screening at the BAM Harvey Theatre, which has the largest 3-D screen in the borough — and at 836 seats, is unlikely to sell out.

8 pm at BAM Harvey Theatre [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org]. \$18 (\$13 children).

WEDNESDAY

December 23

That's all, folks!

Brooklyn's folk music royalty is turning out tonight to say goodbye to musician Willy Gantrim, who is moving to Nashville. Catch him play one last set, along with Spirit Family Reunion, Feral Foster, Joanna Sternberg, and the Old Scratch Sallies.

9:30 pm at the Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, DEC. 18

ART, "AGITPROPI!": This exhibit explores the legacy of politically engaged art, including photography, film, banners, and songs. \$16 museum admission. 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN: Each night this month, the Open Source Gallery hosts an artist who cooks a free meal for 15-20 people and provides some kind of artistic element, like an exhibit, performance, or decoration. Free. 7–9 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279-3969], www.open-source-gallery.org.

CONCERT, CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: Grace Choral of Brooklyn presents Johann Sebastian Bach's movements in Parts 1, 3 and 6. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 7 pm to 9 pm. St. Paul's Church [199 Carroll St in Carroll Gardens], www.gracechorale.org.

DANCE, "THE HARD NUT": A 1970s take on "The Nutcracker." Tickets start at \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.

THEATER, "THE MAMET CHRISTMAS CAROL": What if foul-mouthed Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet were to adapt Charles Dickens' classic story? Find out in this free show! Free. 8 pm. Ange Noir Cafe [247 Varet St. between White and Bogart streets in Bushwick], www.angenoircafe.com.

THEATER, "ANNIE": Directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin, this production of "Annie" is a brand new incarnation of the iconic Tony-winning original. \$30 - \$75. 8 pm. Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush), www.kingstheatre.com.

MUSIC, BEAT KAESTLI: Free. 9:30 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

SAT, DEC. 19

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. ANAHEIM DUCKS: \$70–\$1,750. 7 pm.

TUE, DEC 22

SPORTS, ACC/A10 DOUBLE-HEADER: \$30–\$50. 1 pm.

SUN, DEC 20

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES: \$20–\$3,000. 1 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

MON, DEC 21

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS. ANAHEIM DUCKS: \$70–\$1,750. 7 pm.

WEDS, DEC 23

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. DALLAS MAVERICKS: \$35–\$4,000. 7:30 pm.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

Lame Ducks: The New York Islanders will fly right past the Anaheim Ducks defense when they face off at Barclays Center on Dec. 21.

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**Splash, splash:** Siobhan O’Loughlin stars in the one-woman immersive theater experience “Broken Bone Bathtub,” in which she regales the audience with stories while lounging in the tub.

# Submersive play!

## Theater piece happens in a bathtub

By Colin Mixson  
The Brooklyn Paper

She is really cleaning up her act! With a bathroom for her theater, a tub for her stage, and bubbles for her wardrobe, Brooklyn actress Siobhan O’Loughlin is inviting a limited audience to an immersive theater experience they are unlikely to forget. Ticket holders will join the nude thespian in a secret powder room as she bathes and regales them with tales of her storied past, she said.

“The play is not meant to be risqué,” said O’Loughlin. “It’s about friends helping each other out. But it has that authenticity, and if you’re really scared of maybe seeing a boob, then don’t come.”

The show, called “Broken Bone Bathtub,” accommodates an audience of no more than eight people, and will take place within yet-to-be disclosed bathrooms located in Red Hook, Fort Greene, Prospect Heights, and Bushwick. There — wherever that is — theatergoers will play the part of O’Loughlin’s

**THEATER**

“Broken Bone Bathtub” at various locations through Jan. 31 ([www.siohbanoloughlin.com/nyc](http://www.siohbanoloughlin.com/nyc)). Next show in Red Hook on Jan. 7, at 7 pm and 9 pm. \$23. Location will be sent to ticket holders after purchase.

good friends, who have gifted her the privilege of bathing in their tub.

O’Loughlin’s character has just suffered a terrible bike accident and her arm is in a cast. Not wanting to dampen the plaster in her shower, but not owning a tub of her own, O’Loughlin has requested the use of her friends’ bathtub. As her friends, audience members will be privy to the story of her wrist’s harrowing encounter with the pavement, and be asked to share similar experiences of their own, according to O’Loughlin.

“So half of it is my narrative and half is the audience’s,” she explained. “It’s very participatory. They contribute to

the play based on the subject they choose to talk about.”

The bathroom ambiance is not intended to shock. In fact, O’Loughlin says the experience is meant to be light, fun, and relaxing.

“It’s not a heavy piece of performance art, I’m not going to be reciting poems about suicide,” she said. “It gives people the opportunity to open up in ways they haven’t been encouraged to before.”

A lot of productions benefit from smoke and mirrors, but “Broken Bone Bathtub” relies heavily on bubble effects, according to O’Loughlin, who says suds are essential to providing authenticity — and protecting her modesty.

She says a production assistant she’s been working with has become extremely proficient at making bubble baths thanks to his experiences working on the show.

“I have a PA and part of his job is to make a really good bubble bath,” she said.

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**New Lots Library**  
665 New Lots Avenue  
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**Kings Highway Library**  
2115 Ocean Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

A photograph of a woman in profile, wearing a grey beanie and a dark jacket, holding a large black DSLR camera with a long lens up to her eye. She is looking towards the right, where a city skyline is visible in the background across a body of water. The sky is blue with some clouds. The woman's face is partially in shadow.

PHOTO: LITIX

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A photograph of a large, ornate event space, likely a banquet hall or ballroom. The room is filled with round tables covered in white tablecloths, each surrounded by white chairs. The tables are decorated with centerpieces of flowers and glassware. The room has high ceilings with large, multi-tiered chandeliers. The walls are decorated with white drapery and floral arrangements. The overall atmosphere is formal and elegant.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

with museum admission. 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735–4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

**TALK, BANNER PAINTING AT THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM:** Learn the history and theory of sideshow banners, and create your own under the direction of Marie Roberts, the only traditional banner painter working in Coney Island today. \$16 includes Museum admission and materials. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**ART, GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY:** Bring your kids and learn how to make this classic holiday treat. **Free.** 4–7 pm. Building on Bond [112 Bond St. at Pacific Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 853–8687], www.buildingonbond.com.

**UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER CONTEST:** A night-long contest. **Free.** 7 pm–1 am. Robert Bar [112 Bond St. at Pacific Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 853–8687].

**CONCERT, “HANDEL’S MESSIAH”:** Performed by the Schiller Institute Chorus. Good will offering. 7:30 pm to 9 pm. Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary & St. Stephen RC Church [125 Summit St. at Hicks St. in Carroll Gardens, (201) 562–9890], www.fftrocc.org.

**THEATER, “A CHRISTMAS CAROL — AS TOLD BY THE SECRET OPERA”:** The classic story from Charles Dickens, presented with period vocal music and an

improvised string ensemble. \$20 (\$15 students and seniors). 8 pm. Scholes Street Studio (375 Lorimer St. at Scholes Street in Williamsburg), www.thesecretopera.com.

SUN, DEC. 20

**CONCERT, CHRISTMAS ORATORIO:** Grace Choral of Brooklyn presents Johann Sebastian Bach’s movements in Parts 1, 3 and 6 with Maria Masters, soprano, Rachel Arky, mezzo soprano, Michael Kuhn, tenor and Peter Clark baritone. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 3 pm. St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church (157 Montague St. in Brooklyn Heights), www.gracechorale.org.

**MUSIC, CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The Jim Ridl and Nate Birkey Jazz Quartet join the Union Church of Bay Ridge choirs for a concert of Christmas songs. \$10 suggested donation. 5 pm. Union Church of Bay Ridge [7915 Ridge Blvd. at 80th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745–0438], www.unionchurchbayridge.org.

**SUPERFRENCH SUPERHOLIDAY FAMILY CELEBRATION:** The children and women’s entertainment and fitness center hosts a party with art projects, face painting, photos with Santa, and a puppet show with French-speaking puppets. **Free.** 10 am. SuperFrench Studio [521 Halsey St. between Stuyvesant Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 762–5578], www.superfrench.com.

**BIRDING:** Waterfowl: Children visit the wetlands and take a tour with urban rangers to learn all about the variety of waterfowl and their migration south. **Free.** 10 am to 11:30 am and 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Salt Marsh Nature Cen-



Nadine Boughton

**Adventure tail:** This bit of collage art, titled “Sea Adventures,” is part of Nadine Boughton’s show “American Home,” which combines exotic images from 1950s pulp magazines with domestic household scenes from same era. The show is on display at United Photo Industries through Jan. 23.

ter [3302 Avenue U in Marine Park, (718) 421–2021].

**CRAFT ROOM:** Get creative with a variety of materials and make a Jewish themed project. Free with museum admission. Noon to 5 pm. Jewish Children’s Museum [792 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 907–8833], www.jcm.museum.

**WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS:** Join with the Urban Shaman Mama Donna and hear the stories from around the world about the birth of the sun and Light the holiday lights of many cultures! Advanced registration required. \$30 for 1 parent/1 child; (\$10 additional child: \$25 additional adult). 4:30 pm. Call for location, (718) 857–1343.

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**COMEDY, THE MACAULEY CULKIN SHOW:** Does not involve Macauley Culkin at all. But will have comedians JD Amato, Colin Burgess, John Early, and Good Cop Great cop, among others. \$5. 8 pm. Shea Stadium (20 Meadow St. between Waterbury and Bogart streets in Bushwick), www.liveat-sheastadium.com.

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**COMEDY, THE MACAULEY CULKIN SHOW:** Does not involve Macauley Culkin at all. But will have comedians JD Amato, Colin Burgess, John Early, and Good Cop Great cop, among others. \$5. 8 pm. Shea Stadium (20 Meadow St. between Waterbury and Bogart streets in Bushwick), www.liveat-sheastadium.com.

MON, DEC. 21

**PHIL NIBLOCK — WINTER SOLSTICE:** Celebrate the longest night of the year with six hours of music and a film that charts the movement of the planet. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 5 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267–0363], www.roulette.org.

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**ART, “AGITPROPI”:** 11 am–6 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**COMEDY, “NIGHT TRAIN WITH WYATT CENAC”:** Hosted by Brooklyn-based comedian Wyatt Cenac, “Night Train” is a weekly show that features comedy from the best local and international stand up comedians. \$5. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**WINTER SOLSTICE:** Join with the urban shaman and drum back the sun and reignite the light in our hearts. Please bring a candle in a glass container, drums, percussion instruments, and lots and lots of spirit. **Free.** 11:30 pm. Grand Army Plaza [Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 857–1343].

**THEATER, “A CHRISTMAS CAROL — AS TOLD BY THE SECRET OPERA”:** 7 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 19.

TUES, DEC. 22

**BOROUGH HALL GREEN-MARKET:** Fruits and vegetables, plants and flowers, grass-fed meat, fish, free-

range eggs, and grass-fed dairy products. **Free.** 8 am–6 pm. Borough Hall Plaza (Court Street at Montague Street in Downtown), www.grownyc.org.

**ART, “AGITPROPI”:** 11 am–6 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**THEATER, “ANNIE”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**MUSIC, MAYA SHARPE, DARNING, RED ART TRADER:** \$5 suggested donation. 9 pm. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (718) 627–4949], www.waystationbk.com.

**COMEDY, THE SHOW SHOW WITH JEAN GRAE — A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMASWAZANZ NIGHT:** A live talk show with comedy and music, featuring guest rap artist Donwill. \$10. 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park

Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

**COMEDY, “OH MY SCIENCE”:** A special science-based winter solstice celebration of real things. All your philosophical questions answered or your money back. **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology (308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg), www.videology.info.

WED, DEC. 23

**ART, “AGITPROPI”:** 11 am–6 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**SENIOR BRAIN & BODY EXERCISES:** Free workshop for seniors, focusing on both mental and physical exercises. **Free.** 2 pm. Park Slope Senior Center [463A Seventh St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 832–3726].

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**THEATER, “ANNIE”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

THURS, DEC. 24

**SENIOR TAI-CHI:** Free Tai-Chi class for seniors. **Free.** 11 am. Park Slope Senior Center [463A Seventh St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 832–3726].

**ART, “AGITPROPI”:** 11 am–10 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**“ASCENZI SQUARE — SONS OF WILLIAMSBURG”:** Noon–6 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**THEATER, “ANNIE”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**FILM, “GREMLINS”:** Never feed them after midnight! Part of the “Nitehawk Saves Xmas” film series! \$11. Midnight. Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384–3980], www.nitehawkcinema.com.

FRI, DEC. 25

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**THEATER, “ANNIE”:** 8 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**FILM, “GREMLINS”:** Midnight. See Thursday, Dec. 24.

SAT, DEC. 26

**ART, “AMERICAN HOME”:** 11 am–6 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 19.

**MUSIC, DAR WILLIAMS, LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE:** 8 pm. \$30 (\$25 in advance). Bell House (between Second and Third Avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510), www.thebellhouseny.com.

**THEATER, “ANNIE”:** 2 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**KWANZAA WITH CUMBE:** Join us to learn about the holiday of Kwanzaa and the Nguzo Saba, the seven principles of African Heritage, through the arts of music and dance in an exclusive presentation by Brooklyn’s own Cumbe: Center for African and Diaspora Dance. Free with museum admission. 10 am to 5 pm. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735–4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

**ART, “AGITPROPI”:** 11 am–6 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

**NATURE EXPLORATION:** Join the Prospect Park Alliance for nature education programs at the Prospect Park Audubon Center, the first urban Audubon Center in the nation. Children enjoy Bird nerd games; nature on the go and animal encounter. **Free.** Noon–4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287–3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

**HISTORIC CRAFTS & GAMES:** Join us at the Lefferts Historic for our last week of the season. Make and play 9-Man Morris, a historic board game, and try your hand at creating a small needlework sampler to take home. \$3. 1 pm to 3 pm. Lefferts Historic Homestead [452 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 789–2822], www.prospectpark.org.

**COMEDY, NIGHT OF GOSPEL LAUGHS AND CAROLS:** Global Christian Event Media presents an evening of Christmas-themed comedy and music. \$50 (\$30 in advance). 6 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumble-theater.

**OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7–9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 18.

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# Songs from the lobby of life

Yiddish is the language that used to work like magic for the Jews of Europe. You could be from Russia, Romania, or France, and even if you couldn't understand a lick of each other's official languages, you could almost certainly speak the Jewish language of Yiddish, and all talk together. Or sing.

Coming this Dec. 24–29 you can do (or attempt) both, at the first annual Yiddish New York Festival sponsored by the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, on the Lower East Side. But those activities are also what the Jews who survived the Holocaust were asked to do in the lobby of an Upper West Side hotel in 1948: Talk and sing.

Sing your hearts out. The man requesting this was Ben Stonehill, the owner of a flooring company in Sunnyside, Queens. He had heard that Jewish refugees were being temporarily housed at the Marseilles Hotel on 103rd Street, and wanted to save their songs that came from a world literally gone up in smoke. So he schlepped into Manhattan with the best sound equipment he could find: A big, bulky wire recorder. He set himself up in the lobby, which was teeming with Jews only recently arrived from Europe. "Sing," he told them in the Yiddish he, too, had grown up speaking. "Sing whatever you'd like."

Those are the recordings socio-musicologist Miriam Isaacs will play at the Festival on Dec. 24. And then she will teach some of those songs to the audience.

"Stonehill's recordings are a kind of time capsule," says Isaacs, herself born in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany. "It's a snapshot taken only a short time after liberation, before pressures to Americanize and forget what had happened."

Some of the songs date from before the war. They come from the Yiddish theater, or synagogue. But believe it or not, there are also some that are positively bawdy.



## Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

"A lot involve rabbis or rabbis' wives," said Isaacs, laughing. "I'm not a psychologist but I guess these boys who were studying in the yeshivas [religious schools] were so protected from sex, who do they [see] who's a female at all?" Only the rabbi's wife. So there's a song, for instance, about how her "apron goes higher" — that is, she's pregnant. Except, being yeshiva boys, they could never say that. Other songs mention delicious pastries that make it clear that pastry is not what they're singing about at all.

But of course there are also the heart-wrenching songs, including some composed in the concentration camps to remember and tell what happened there — if the singers survived. And there are many songs from after the war about never being able to go home again. "Where Shall I Go?" is one. "Pack Up," another.

And then there are the songs just trying to make sense of the world — "songs philosophizing about the brevity of life, questioning God," says Isaacs. She grew up hearing some of these. "My mother was a survivor who had been in Auschwitz and Ravensbruck [concentration camps]. She never talked about it, but she did sing while she was doing housework, and there were some songs that I'd never heard elsewhere." One of these was, "God in His Judgment Is Right."

Isaacs' father did not agree that God could possibly have approved the Holocaust.

"So my parents used to quarrel in a good-hearted way over theological issues," Isaacs recalls. "And my mom would say, 'Well, you just have to have faith in God.'" And she'd sing

that song.

It was a song Isaacs had never heard again — until she heard it on a Ben Stonehill recording from the Hotel Marseilles.

The recordings are not pristine, but that's part of their

moment-in-amber magic. In the background horns honk, people call out lyrics when someone forgets a line, and babies cry. There are lots and lots of babies crying, because after the war, many of the survivors were young. Their parents and grandparents had been killed, and some of their children, too. They wanted to create new life.

That is why many of the Stonehill recordings are simply love songs.

"Singing is restorative," says Isaacs. "The survivors who made it through the war were not treated to therapy.

They were as traumatized as human beings can get. But remarkably and wonderfully, music is very healing, and this gave them an opportunity to express what they had been through and to meet people of the opposite sex."

Amazingly, life goes on. Thanks to Ben Stonehill, it is also frozen forever.

For more information on Yiddish New York, please go to [www.yiddishnewyork.com](http://www.yiddishnewyork.com).

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.



Photo by Louise Wateridge

## Ice try!

Do-gooders tried to break the world-record for the longest conga line on ice on Dec. 12. They didn't succeed, but did raise \$1,000 for cancer charities.

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Heights holiday hostess Sondra Fagen wants to plan a glorious get-together for desolate doves this Christmas.

# More the merrier!

## Woman invites solitary souls to party

By **Shavana Abruzzo**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Just call her Kris Mingle! Brooklyn Heights resident Sondra Fagen is wheelchair-bound and was diagnosed recently with cancer, but that hasn't stopped her from spreading glad tidings and planning a sensational shindig

for yuletide lonely hearts. "To have to sit by yourself and have no one to talk to at Christmas is pretty horrible," says Fagen, 78, who wants to team up with like-minded altruists and resurrect her famous Holiday Dinner Group — winner of a mayoral humanitarian award and subject

of a glowing New York Times write-up back in the day. "I want to do it now while I'm still healthy." The freelance journalist is hoping a good Samaritan can open his or her home or donate a venue and use of a computer so she can proceed with her potluck knees-up —

on a wing and prayer if necessary. "We'll meet in a restaurant if we have to," says the spry septuagenarian, whose loved ones and friends are mostly deceased. Fagen began her parties in 1964 after a man wrote to her singles' column asking where he could spend Thanksgiving, but was forced to abandon it three years ago after a brutal subway attack left her with internal injuries. Now she's ready for a comeback. "I made a promise to God that if he made me a journal-

ist I would work on a project for the rest of my life," Fagen says. "And I have." United Nations' workers, concentration camp survivors, average Joes and Janes, a man who lost his wife and kids in a car crash, and melancholy musicians have all attended her past revels, leaving well-fed and firm friends with a restored faith in humanity, she claims. "I don't think there's really a creep in the crowd," Fagen said in a 1982 Times article that reported on an interracial group jammed in a small studio apartment for Easter, feast-

ing on rock cornish hen, fried chicken, lox, cream cheese, salads, and homemade desserts in between live music and group singing. And this year's jollity will be extra special — if it happens — because it is on Fagen's bucket list. "I'm not looking for money," she says. "I just want everyone to get together and have a good time." *Lonely hearts able to donate a venue or computer for a potluck holiday party can contact Sondra Fagen at (718) 522-0506.*

# Doing the books

## Comptroller to mayor: Selling off libraries is not a sustainable solution

By **Ruth Brown**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

The city's plan to sell the Brooklyn Heights library so the borough's book-lending system can pay to fix crumbling branches has limited shelf life, says the city's top accountant.

The library plans to sell its shabby branch on Cadman Plaza West to fund \$300 million in needed repairs — but the \$52 million it will get for the property will only stretch so far, and the one-time cash injection is not a sustainable solution for funding an ongoing problem, the comptroller's office said last Wednesday.

"It is simply unsustainable for the city to rely solely on the dispossession of property to cover capital needs without fixing the systemic causes for the capital gap," wrote Deputy Comptroller Alaina Gilligo in a Dec. 9 letter to Deputy



Scott Stringer

Mayor Alicia Glen.

The city — which ultimately owns the land — should not go forward with the sale until the library system can outline how it plans to fix its bottom line in the long-term, which other libraries it plans to sell in the future, and how it thinks the resulting development will affect those neighborhoods, Gilligo said. Gilligo also demanded the

city address accusations that it could sell the land for way more money, and concerns that the replacement branch will be smaller than the current one.

The comptroller's office did not respond to a request for an explanation of what a more sustainable way to fill the hole in the library's budget might be by press time.

The Council voted to approve the plan on Wednesday, after Councilman Steve Levin (D-Brooklyn Heights) agreed to proffer his all-important approval in exchange for some concessions — including a larger replacement library, though still not as large as the one that will be demolished.

The mayor still has to sign off on the scheme, but says he has no reservations.

The Brooklyn Public Library did not return request for comment.

# LIBRARY...

*Continued from page 1* more than 19 percent — minus the first \$1.5 million it makes, which is a trade-off for the cheaper below-market housing.

But naysayers say the

new deal does not address their major objection — that they will forever lose a major public asset to a private company that doesn't have the community's best interest at heart.

"When this new library is put in it will be non-expandable, it will be stuck as it is inside a privately-owned building," said Mike Jankowitz, who is a part of activist group Citizens Defending Libraries, which has fought fiercely against the sale. "You can't bring it back from the dead."



The Living Room, a beloved music venue with a homey reputation, will shutter its third and final outpost by the end of the month.

# Living Room dying out

## W'burg music venue will close this month

By **Allegra Hobbs**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

It is the nabe the music died.

Williamsburg will lose yet another live music venue when the Living Room closes at the end of the month, and musicians across the country are already mourning the end of a place they say welcomed them to its stage again and again.

"It kind of felt like I had a home in the venue," said Aiden James, a touring Philadelphia singer-songwriter who faithfully performed at the beloved venue during his frequent trips

to New York.

The Metropolitan Avenue space was the third incarnation of the long-standing live music staple, which first opened in Manhattan in 1988, and showcased the fledgling talents of performers including Norah Jones, Colbie Caillat, and the Lumineers during its run.

Owners Steve Rosenthal and Jennifer Gilson had two Manhattan locations before moving to a venue between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street — which featured a rooftop bar and a mezzanine level — just over a year ago.

But the duo say the new venue isn't making enough cash to pay the rent — although those who have come to play and see gigs have been supportive.

"Everyone who came here loved it," said Gilson. "But it wasn't enough."

The music box is the just latest in a series of neighborhood venues to shut their doors over the past few years as rents in the coveted streets skyrocket.

Cameo Gallery closed in October following a spat with its landlord and punk-rock Mecca Trash Bar shut over

# Frozen people

## Islanders celebrate Hanukkah

By **Lauren Gill**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Call it a hockey shtick! The Islanders celebrated Hanukkah at Barclays Center on Sunday night with an appropriately frosty reception — lighting up a menorah carved out of ice.

And the double-meaning cut both ways, said an organizer — the pro athletes' perseverance is a great analogy for the festival of lights, which celebrates the triumph of the

Jewish people over religious persecution.

"A hockey game is one of those places where our message resonates," said Rabbi Mendy Hecht of Chabad Jewish Center of Prospect Heights. "There's a great message of not giving up."

Youngster Mendy Abayou lit up the candelabra after the first period, and Hecht said it was a miracle in itself that the sub-zero sculpture stayed intact through the festivities.



Mendy Abayou lights the ice menorah during Jewish Heritage Night at the Barclays Center on Dec. 13.

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# Where there’s a mill

## Williamsburg bakery grinds own flour

**By Allegra Hobbs**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

This chef can’t escape the daily grind — and he doesn’t want to!

A Williamsburg baker is making his own flour via a massive stone mill and using it to create fresh loaves at his new Moore Street bakery. But the finished product is almost beside the point, the carbohydrate craftsman said — this operation is all about celebrating heirloom grains and the delicious things you can do with them.

“It’s not about bread — it’s about the wheat,” said Chef Adam Leonti, who opened Brooklyn Bread Lab between Bushwick Avenue and White Street on Dec. 2. “About how it makes its way in everything, and about how if you have it fresh it’s good for you.”

The bakery is equipped with a 7,000-pound granite mill that crushes 400 pounds of whole grains every hour for Leonti’s operation, which regularly sells out the 25 to 30 loaves it makes daily before 3 pm.

Leonti grinds a different kind of weirdo wheat every



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

The Brooklyn Bread Lab’s 7,000 pound stone flour mill processes 400 pounds of grain in an hour.

week — right now it is one called “warthog,” next it will be a strain of durum—and creates an ever-rotating selection of funky-flour-powered focacias, pastas, and pastries.

The freshly-pulverized grist doesn’t just taste better, it is better for you, Leonti claims.

“You get more nutrients as it grinds because of the coarseness,” he said. “It makes it kind of creamy, which is good for flavor and for health.”

The bakery will eventually supply its grainy goods to the forthcoming Williamsburg Hotel, when it opens at Wythe Avenue and N. 10th Street next spring. Leonti will be the hotel’s executive chef while continuing to keep an eye on the mill.

The hotel is lending the kernel colonel the space for his experimental operation while it wraps construction, and depending on how popular the bakery becomes, it may stay where it is or move into the new hotel.

*The Brooklyn Bread Lab* [201 Moore St. between Bushwick Avenue and White Street in Williamsburg, (718) 418-4400, [www.brooklynbreadlab.com](http://www.brooklynbreadlab.com)].

# What a plaque-ard!

## Cobble Hill dentist’s sign brings a smile

**By Lauren Gill**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

This Cobble Hill dentist has his patients cracking up—and it isn’t the laughing gas!

Henry Street’s Bococa Dental has mouths agape with a sidewalk sign advertising “hand-crafted fillings, artisanal Invisalign, and bespoke ceramic crowns.” But the marketing tactic isn’t intended to appeal seriously to neighborhood hipsters, according to its top tooth technician — just to ease his patients’ pain.

“It’s more just to be silly and lighthearted,” said Dr. Gregory Gangi, who put the tongue-



Community News Group / Lauren Gill

The sign outside Bococa Dental on Henry Street has patients and passersby grinning.

in-cheek sign in front of his practice near Atlantic Avenue. “You know, it’s dentistry so we want to lighten it up.”

The placard was inspired in part by a recent Saturday Night Live skit mocking the arrival of wine bars and specialty mayonnaise stores in Bushwick, Gangi said.

“That kind of got me thinking about how I could make something funny with dentistry and put it on one of these sandwich board signs that would kind of express a little bit of my humor,” he said.

This isn’t the dentist’s first funny sidewalk sign—a previous one advertised “Gluten-free crowns baked fresh daily.” But Gangi said his latest effort has raised the bar for his next creation.

“I’m going to have to come up with something good,” he said.

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vs. JOSEPH LEZAMA; et  
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Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s):  
ROSICKI, ROSICKI &  
ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2  
Summit Court, Suite 301,  
Fishkill, New York, 12524,  
845.897.1600  
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Kings County Supreme  
Court, 360 Adams Street,  
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INDEX NO. 9031-13  
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KINGS COUNTY  
NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST,  
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AGENT AND CUSTODIAN  
FOR THE NYCTL 1998-2  
TRUST, Plaintiff, vs.  
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erected, situate, lying and  
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City and State of New  
York, Block 681 and Lot  
80. Approximate amount of  
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plus interest and costs.  
Premises will be sold  
subject to provisions of  
filed Judgment Index #  
8940/11.  
Paul Vallone, Esq.,  
Referee  
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Mittendorf, LLP, 156 West  
56th Street, New York,  
New York 10019,  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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to: Assume the name of  
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Skodol (Last) Ward. My  
present name is (First)  
Alison (Middle) Parmer  
(Last) Skodol. My present  
address is 25 Bergen  
Street, Brooklyn, NY  
11201. My place of birth is  
New York, N.Y. My date of  
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Rodriguez AKA Dariany  
Del Carmen Rodriguez  
(infant). My present  
address is 919 Myrtle  
Avenue, Brooklyn, NY  
11206. My place of birth is  
Brooklyn, NY. My date of  
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that an Order entered by  
the Civil Court, Kings  
County on 11/17/2015,  
bearing Index Number  
NC-001263-15/KI, a copy  
of which may be examined  
at the Office of the Clerk,  
located at 141 Livingston  
Street, Brooklyn, NY  
11201, grants me the right  
to: Assume the name of  
(First) Amanda (Middle)  
Rissel (Last) Martinez  
Moore. My present name  
is (First) Amanda (Middle)  
Rissel (Last) Martinez  
Moore AKA Amanda R  
Martinez AKA Amanda R  
Martinez Moore. My  
present address is 120 S  
1st St, Brooklyn, NY  
11249. My place of birth is  
Dominican Republic. My  
date of birth is September  
20, 1991.

Notice is hereby given  
regarding Cemetery lots  
abandoned under Section  
1513-a of the Not for Profit  
Corporation Law at  
Cypress Hills Cemetery,  
833 Jamaica Ave.,  
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718-277-2900. **INTENT TO  
DECLARE ABANDONED  
ACCORDING TO NYS  
LAW 1513-A Section 1**  
Lot 1: Henry H. Porter; Lot  
34: Mary and Thomas T.  
Williams; Lot 98: John  
Griffith; **Section 2** Lot 35:  
Hampton D. Gage; Lot 45:  
Isaac F. Jones; Lot 48:  
Maria L. Searle; Lot 64:  
Harry Stanyought; Lot 68:  
Peter Marsh; **Section 6**  
Lot 485: J. Henry Sperry; Lot  
488: James S. Schneider;  
Lot 490: Henry A. Smith  
and Susan V. Smith, his  
wife; Lot 498: Minerva H.  
and Della J. Cole; Lot 499:  
George Thompson **Refer  
all questions and  
information to main  
office.**

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Letitia James Warns  
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